



## **Marine Debris Report – June 2006**

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### **Saltwater Sportfishing Group Working to Protect the Environment**

The United Pier and Shore Anglers of California (UPSAC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a program to protect marine life by keeping used fishing line from ending up in the ocean. The project is being made possible by a grant from the NOAA Marine Debris Program ([www.marinedebris.noaa.gov](http://www.marinedebris.noaa.gov)).

The UPSAC will work cooperatively with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) to build, install and maintain forty Fishing Line Recycling Bins at saltwater piers and/or shore fishing (angling) locations in California. Fishing line discarded into the environment is very slow to degrade and may entangle diving birds, fish, invertebrates (crabs, lobsters, etc.) turtles, marine mammals, and even swimmers and divers.

Ken Jones, President of UPSAC, said, "the all-metal line recycle bins to be used for the project were developed by UPSAC and are based upon proto-type bins that have been installed and in use at Guadalupe Beach in Santa Barbara County for over a year." The bins will be placed at piers and shoreline areas in southern and central California as agreements with local governing organizations are obtained (see attached photo). Ken also noted that by visiting the UPSAC web site you can track the program accomplishments and find the closest recycle bin.

The program manager for the project, Marty Golden, the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Coast Recreational Fisheries Coordinator was very excited about the project. He said, "this is a great example of the things that can be accomplished by California Saltwater Sportfishing Action Team." Marty is the Chair of the Team, which is designed to build partnerships between angling organizations and between them and various government agencies involved with marine resources to enhance the marine angling experience.

"Partnering with UPSAC, an organization committed to preserving pier and shore angling, can make a huge impact

in reducing the amount of marine debris entering the ocean.” Says Holly Bamford, Program Manager for the NOAA Marine Debris Program, “We are glad to be part of this effort to increase recycling and strengthen marine debris prevention programs.

### **Louisiana Marine Debris Project To Be Rescheduled**

The volunteer-based Marine Debris Marking & Mapping Project on Calcasieu Lake, Moss Lake and West Cove scheduled for Saturday, June 24, has been postponed due to adverse environmental conditions and ongoing clean-up operations surrounding the 70,000 barrel oil and wastewater spill at CITCO’s Indian Marais on-site drainage facility. The event will be rescheduled in July.

“Given the current environmental conditions, with approximately 15,000 barrels contained as of Wednesday, June 21, visible sheen located at the Calcasieu Point Landing; and coupled with the volunteer orientation of this effort—the current risk to boaters was simply too uncertain,” said Louisiana Sea Grant’s Port Specialist Justin Farrell. Closures that affect the project include the Calcasieu Ship Channel and Moss Lake. Additionally, it was uncertain whether additional closures would be forthcoming.

Heavy rainfall in the Lake Charles area earlier in the week caused flooding and problems at CITCO’s waste water storage tank area and secondary containments. The official cause of the spill remains under investigation. In response to on-going recovery and containment efforts on the Calcasieu Ship Channel, the U.S. Coast Guard, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator’s Office (LOSCO), and the CITCO Lake Charles Manufacturing Complex have created a Unified Incident Command. Likewise, CITCO has established the following hotline at (800) 213-5540 and a direct line for claims relating to boat cleaning at (337) 708-7177.

Hurricane Rita scattered residential, industrial and vegetative debris throughout the estuary system, creating a hazard for recreational and commercial boaters, as well as their vessels and gear. In an attempt to make the lake safer, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Coast Survey, Louisiana Sea Grant College Program (Louisiana Sea Grant), Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), Lake Charles Power Squadron, LSU AgCenter, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Lake Charles Pilots continue to move toward marking and mapping as much of the marine debris as possible.

This effort is made possible with involvement of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey with the funding and support of NOAA's Marine Debris Program, which is part of the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration (National Ocean Service). The NOAA Marine Debris Program works with other NOAA offices and partners to support national, state, local and international efforts to protect and conserve our nation’s natural resources and coastal waterways from the impacts of marine debris.

### **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary & NOAA MDP Highlighted in Cousteau series**

Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Adventures series on PBS has been set to air “America’s Underwater Treasures: Part One”: Wed. Sept. 20, 8pm and Part Two: Wed. Sept. 27, 8pm. The episodes highlight the nation’s National Marine Sanctuaries. For each Sanctuary they highlight a feature story and provide background national history coverage.

Part two has a piece on the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary. The feature story is the cooperative program between NOAA's Sanctuary program, with funding by the NOAA Marine Debris Program, and the Makah Tribe in finding and removing derelict fishing gear. The Cousteau film crew spent a week with the Northwest Straits Commission's Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Team filming the removal of a derelict gillnet and several crab pots. Everyone involved invites you to share this compelling story as seen through the eyes and lens of Jean-Michel Cousteau.

### **Marine Debris Bill to be Marked Up**

The House Transportation & Infrastructure Full Committee will markup several bills tomorrow, Wednesday, June 28th in Room 2167, Rayburn House Office Building. Among these is S. 362, the Marine Debris Research, Prevention and Reduction Act," introduced by Senator Inouye (D-HI) in February of 2005. The bill was passed by the Senate in July of last year and was then referred to the House Committees on Resources and Transportation & Infrastructure respectively. The House Resources Committee has since passed the bill as amended.

S. 362 is a bill to establish a program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Coast Guard to help identify, determine sources of, assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment and navigation safety, in coordination with non-Federal entities, and for other purposes.

## **Marine Debris in the News**

### **Hawaiian Marine Reserve to be the World's Largest**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2006/06/14/AR2006061402455.html?referrer=emailarticle>

### **More praise for NWHI National Monument**

<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/news/editorial/14859814.htm>

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